

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A PEM fuel cell which comprises at least two terminal plates which clamp in a membrane which, apart from the outermost edge, is covered on both sides by an electrode layer, the covering of the membrane with at least one electrode layer projecting into the structural edge region of the fuel cell, and product water in the structural edge region of the fuel cell for wetting the membrane.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The PEM fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, in which in the edge region seals are arranged between the membrane and the ~~frame element~~ terminal plates.

Claim 3 (original): A method for operating a PEM fuel cell, in which the formation of product water in the structural edge region of the fuel cell is utilized to wet the membrane.

Claim 4 (previously amended): A fuel cell storage battery which is made from fuel cells which are electrically series-connected and comprises a stack of at least two fuel cells as claimed in claim 1 which are mechanically connected to one another.

Claim 5 (new): A PEM fuel cell as claimed in claim 2, including a reservoir between the seals and the membrane, and wherein the product water is within the reservoir.